

In re Patent Application of:
MOREAUX ET AL.
Serial No. 10/060,105
Filing Date: January 29, 2002

In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 8 (Previously Cancelled).

Claims 9-15 (Cancelled).

16. (Previously Added) An integrated circuit comprising:

- at least one internal power supply line;
- at least one power supply pad connected to said at least one internal power supply line, and to be connected to an external device for receiving an external voltage;
- at least one input/output pad to be connected to the external device for receiving the external voltage;
- at least one of a pull-up and pull-down device connected between said at least one input/output pad and said at least one internal power supply line; and
- a detection circuit for comparing voltage levels between said at least one input/output pad and said at least one internal power supply line for determining if a power supply connection with the external device is defective.

17. (Previously Added) An integrated circuit according to Claim 16, wherein said detection circuit comprises a comparison circuit connected between each respective power supply pad and a corresponding input/output pad.

18. (Previously Added) An integrated circuit according to Claim 17, wherein each comparison circuit comprises a first inverter having an input connected to said

In re Patent Application of:
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at least one internal power supply line, and another input connected to said at least one input/output pad for receiving power therefrom.

19. (Previously Added) An integrated circuit according to Claim 18, wherein said first inverter comprises at least one transistor having a low threshold; and wherein an output of said first inverter changes when a difference in voltage levels on said at least one internal power supply line and said at least one input/output pad is at least equal to the low threshold of said at least one transistor.

20. (Previously Added) An integrated circuit according to Claim 18, wherein each comparison circuit comprises a second inverter series connected with said first inverter, said second inverter having an output for providing a defective connection signal based upon a difference in the compared voltage levels.

21. (Previously Added) An integrated circuit according to Claim 16, wherein said detection circuit generates a defective connection signal for turning off at least a portion of the integrated circuit when a difference in the compared voltage levels exceeds a threshold.

22. (Previously Added) A smart card comprising:
at least one internal power supply line;
at least one power supply pad connected to said at least one internal power supply line, and to be connected to a card reader for receiving an external voltage;

In re Patent Application of:
MOREAUX ET AL.
Serial No. 10/060,105
Filing Date: January 29, 2002

at least one input/output pad to be connected to the card reader for receiving the external voltage;

at least one of a pull-up and pull-down device connected between said at least one input/output pad and said at least one internal power supply line; and

a detection circuit for comparing voltage levels between said at least one input/output pad and said at least one internal power supply line for determining if a power supply connection with the card reader is defective.

23. (Previously Added) A smart card according to Claim 22, wherein said detection circuit comprises a comparison circuit connected between each respective power supply pad and a corresponding input/output pad.

24. (Previously Added) A smart card according to Claim 23, wherein each comparison circuit comprises a first inverter having an input connected to said at least one internal power supply line, and another input connected to said at least one input/output pad for receiving power therefrom.

25. (Previously Added) A smart card according to Claim 24, wherein said first inverter comprises at least one transistor having a low threshold; and wherein an output of said first inverter changes when a difference in voltage levels on said at least one internal power supply line and said at least one input/output pad is at least equal to the low threshold of said at least one transistor.

In re Patent Application of:
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Serial No. 10/060,105
Filing Date: January 29, 2002

26. (Previously Added) A smart card according to Claim 24, wherein each comparison circuit comprises a second inverter series connected with said first inverter, said second inverter having an output for providing a defective connection based upon the difference in voltage levels.

27. (Previously Added) A smart card according to Claim 22, wherein said detection circuit generates a defective connection signal for turning off at least a portion of the smart card when a difference in the compared voltage levels exceeds a threshold.

Claims 28-33 (Cancelled).